

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R D O W N G R A D I N G I N S T R U C T I O N S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, ID, NL

SUBJECT: WIDJOJO'S VIEWS ON IGGI

SUMMARY. WIDJOJO EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF MAY IGGI MEETING AND OF U.S. ROLE. HE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF RECENT STATEMENT BY DUTCH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER AND IGGI CHAIRMAN PRONK, AND SAYS THIS HAS CAUSED GOI CONSIDER SERIOUSLY WHETHER DUTCH SHOULD CONTINUE TO CHAIR IGGI. END SUMMARY.

AMBASSADOR CALLED ON BAPPENAS CHAIRMAN WIDJOJO JUNE 10 FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SALEH AFIFF AND USAID DIRECTOR ALSO PRESENT. WIDJOJO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OUTCOME OF IGGI MEETING, AND SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT A CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED THAT AID SHOULD CONTINUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR. U.S. ROLE HAD BEEN HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE, AND THIS FULLY APPRECIATED ON INDONESIAN SIDE. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION ABOUT FUTURE OF IGGI, WIDJOJO SAID GOI VERY UPSET BY RECENT RADIO BROADCAST
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BY IGGI CHAIRMAN PRONK. WIDJOJO HAD SEEN FULL TRANSCRIPT,

AND PRONK'S STATEMENT MISLEADING OR OFFENSIVE IN SEVERAL WAYS, INCLUDING MISSTATEMENT OF FACT RE "CUT" IN DUTCH AID FOR CURRENT YEAR; IMPLYING INDONESIANS NOT SUFFICIENTLY ALERT TO OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS RURAL POOR AND URBAN MASSES; AND PARTICULARLY THE EXPLICIT LINKING OF AID TO POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE. WORST OF ALL, HOWEVER, WAS THE IMPRESSION HE GAVE THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR IGGI MEMBERSHIP WHEN HE SAID THAT INDONESIA WAS IN A PERIOD OF TESTING, AND THAT AID WOULD BE CUT IF IT DID NOT MEASURE UP. WIDJOJO SAID THERE WERE MANY EXPLANATIONS AS TO WHY PRONK WOULD SAY THESE THINGS, THE MOST IMPORTANT BEING THAT HE SINCERELY BELIEVED THAT ECONOMIC AID COULD AND SHOULD BE USED TO SECURE BROAD POLICY CHANGES IN LDC'S. ALL THIS HAD CAUSED THE GOI TO CONSIDER VERY SERIOUSLY WHETHER, DESPITE THEIR APPRECIATION FOR PAST ASSISTANCE, THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE IGGI HAD NOT BECOME "TOO HEAVY A BURDEN" FOR THE NETHERLANDS; AND HE SAID GOI HAD ASKED THE NETHERLANDS ALSO CONSIDER THIS QUESTION. SEVERAL OPTIONS WERE AVAILABLE, INCLUDING CHAIRMANSHIP BY IBRD, ROTATING CHAIRMANSHIP BY MEMBER COUNTRIES, REQUESTING ONE COUNTRY TO CHAIR SERIES OF MEETINGS, OR INDONESIAN CHAIRMANSHIP, AND NO DECISION HAD YET BEEN TAKEN ON WHICH COURSE TO PURSUE. WIDJOJO SAID PRONK STATEMENT HAD OF COURSE BEEN PICKED UP AND USED BY THOSE IN INDONESIA WHO CRITICAL OF FOREIGN AID AND IGGI, BUT HE ASSURED AMBASSADOR THAT SUHARTO STILL FULLY IN SUPPORT OF PRESENT POLICIES AND WOULD WISH FINDS WAY TO CONTINUE IGGI AND FRUITFUL COOPERATION WITH DONORS.

COMMENT. WIDJOJO CAUTIONED THAT QUESTION OF IGGI CHAIRMANSHIP BEING CLOSELY HELD, AND WE PROMISED RESPECT CONFIDENCE. HIS MANNER SUGGESTED THAT DECISION PROBABLY ALREADY TAKEN TO SHIFT CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT DETAILS STILL TO BE WORKED OUT AS TO HOW THIS WILL BE DONE AND WHAT FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE.

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